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SUBJECT: UNGA FOOD SECURITY EVENT: BOTSWANA REPLY

REF: STATE 93894

Post transmitted a copy of the invitation letter and proposed draft declaration for the September 26 Food Security Event to Botswana's Foreign Minister Phandu Skelemani. However, Minister Skelemani has changed his previous plan to head Botswana's UNGA delegation. Due to Botswana's upcoming October 16 general election, Minister Skelemani and other VIP Botswana Government officials will be occupied with political campaigning. Therefore, no high-ranking GOB officials currently plan to travel to UNGA. Botswana's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Charles Ntwaagae, will lead Botswana's 2009 UNGA delegation. Ambassador Ntwaagae will attend the September 26 event. The GOB shared no substantive comments on the draft declaration.

NOLAN